

MINUTES

**Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Transportation Division
POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2009
Kent County Road Commission
1500 Scribner NW Grand Rapids, MI**

Varga, Chair of the Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Voting Members Present

Peter Varga *(Chair)*
Alex Arends
Pat Bush
Bill Cousins
Rick DeVries

*Proxy for
Mark DeClercq*

Jeff Dood
Ken Feldt
Don Hilton, Sr.
Jim Holtrop
Bob Homan
Jim Koslosky
Ken Krombeen
Dal McBurrows
David Pasquale
Rich Pastoor
Chuck Porter
Terry Schweitzer
Don VanDoeselaar
Steve Warren

*Proxy for
Jon Rice*

The Rapid
Alpine Township
City of Grand Rapids
Cascade Township
City of Grand Rapids
City of Grand Rapids
City of Rockford
City of East Grand Rapids
Gaines Township
Ottawa County
Plainfield Township
GRFIA
City of Grandville
MDOT
City of Lowell
City of Wyoming
Courtland Township
City of Kentwood
City of Hudsonville
KCRC
KCRC

Staff and Non-Voting Guests Present

Andrea Dewey
Andrea Faber
Jan Hoekstra
Abed Itani
Dennis Kent
Darrell Robinson
Jared Rodriguez
Norm Sevensma
George Yang

GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff
The Rapid
GVMC Staff
MDOT
GVMC Staff
GR Chamber of Commerce
GVMC Staff
GVMC Staff

Voting Members Not Present

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Larry Bruursema	OCRC
Christine Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Dick Davies	Cannon Township
Mark DeClercq	City of Grand Rapids
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
George Haga	Ada Township
Bryan Harrison	Caledonia Charter Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Dale Mohr	Georgetown Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Sandi Frost Parrish	Kent County Commissioner
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Jon Rice	KCRC
Darrel Schmalzel	City of Walker
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Varga entertained a motion to approve of the January 21, 2009 Policy Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION by Pasquale, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to approve of the January 21, 2009 Policy Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sevensma asked the Committee how the final decision on how stimulus money is spent in this MPO-area is made. Itani responded that, according to the bill, projects need to go through the MPO process and that there are strict requirements for keeping track of where the money is going. Varga added that all items on the stimulus list must be in the TIP, and that at the last Metro Council Board Meeting, a motion passed which granted the Policy Committee the authority to approve any stimulus projects going into the TIP. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

IV. FY2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

Referring to **Item IV: Attachment A**, Robinson informed the Committee of five different TIP amendment requests. The first request, from MDOT, was to amend the TIP to update the General Program Accounts for FY2009 for trunkline and local projects by either adding the GPAs not currently in the TIP or adding funding to GPAs that do currently exist. He stated that the GPA for "Enhancements Local" would likely be going up again because of the number of enhancement projects currently being approved.

The second request, from The Rapid, was to amend the FY2010 TIP to make adjustments and additions to their Section 5307 and Section 5309 projects listed within the TIP. Referring to a separate handout, Hoekstra described an additional request from

The Rapid that had been walked onto the agenda. This request was to amend the TIP for FY2009 to include Sections 5307, 5309, UPWP and Economic Recovery funds. Varga provided additional information.

The fourth request, from the City of Grand Rapids, was to amend the TIP to add an awarded FY2009 Enhancement project to the TIP. The project consists of reconstructing Cherry Street from Commerce Avenue to Division Avenue to brick pavers and the realignment of the Division/Cherry intersection. The award amount was \$417,328 federal with a total construction cost of \$1,470,000. Robinson stated that he has had several GPA enhancement projects awarded recently and that in the future, he would let the Committee know when enhancement projects are awarded and add the cost of the project into the GPA.

The final request, from Staff, was to amend the FY2009 TIP to add two Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects to the FY2009 TIP. MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have determined that the projects are eligible for CMAQ funding.

Varga asked the Committee for a preference on taking these items together in one motion or separately. There was a general consensus to take all of these items together as one motion.

Varga entertained a motion to amend the FY2009-2011 TIP to include the amendments identified by Staff.

MOTION by Pastoor, SUPPORT by Bush, to amend the FY2009-2011 TIP to include the amendments from MDOT, The Rapid, the City of Grand Rapids, and Staff, as previously identified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF ILLUSTRATIVE/ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROJECTS LIST (URBAN, RURAL, MDOT)

Referring to **Item V: Attachment A**, Robinson gave the Committee a brief overview of the last Transportation Programming Study Group (TPSG) meeting and explained the stimulus project list. He explained that the Stimulus Projects list includes projects selected by the TPSG Committee, MDOT projects, Rural projects and enhancement projects. It also includes an illustrative list of projects voluntarily removed from the Stimulus List. These projects will be able to go back into the Stimulus List or be available for backfill into the TIP. Itani provided additional information about the process used to develop the list and stated that if additional funding becomes available, the projects on the illustrative list will have higher priority for funding. Itani clarified that the list of 13.1 million dollars is the list that GVMC is asking the Policy Committee to approve.

Warren commented on the professionalism of the TPSG Committee, stating that the representatives from the area had come together in an honorable way to create this stimulus list. He expected that the Committee was likely leading other MPOs around the state in preparedness.

Kent added several modifications to MDOT's list of stimulus projects. He asked that the cost of the 1-196 reconstruction project change from \$18.4 million to \$19.5 million. He also stated that the cost for 2 ITS projects would need to be increased to include PE and

CE and requested to add a new project for a bridge at US-131 at Post Road. The bridge project was expected to cost \$1,450,000 dollars.

Koslosky thanked the Committee for considering the airport's John J. Oostema Blvd. project as an important regional project. Koslosky stated that since the last Technical Committee Meeting, the airport had come up with a more accurate cost for the project of approximately \$980,000.

Dood stated that Rockford had submitted a project for a small stretch of road on Main Street that he didn't see included on the list. Itani stated that all projects submitted were discussed, and that if a representative was not there to fight for the project, the project was overpassed. Itani suggested that Dood include the project on the illustrative list. Discussion ensued.

Itani commented that there will be Enhancement stimulus funding. Discussion ensued.

Bush asked Varga if The Rapid's project needed to be added to the Stimulus List. Varga agreed, as did Itani.

Schweitzer noted that if \$980,000 is budgeted for the airport project, that would push the project total over the \$13.1 million mark by \$680,000. Itani clarified that, at this point, there are no targets, and the total amount of funding available should be between \$12.9 and \$13.4 million dollars. Itani agreed, however, that the list did need to be financially constrained. Itani added that MPO staff is recommending that, since the airport is a regional facility, the project be ranked as a regional priority. He added that the area may receive another \$400,000 and provided a review on how the determination to give the airport \$300,000 in stimulus funds for the project was derived. Discussion, comments and questions ensued.

Itani stated that some projects were removed from FY2010 and FY2011 in the TIP in order to be added to the stimulus list, and consequently, those years of the TIP would need to be reprogrammed. Itani stated that one possibility would be adding a segment of the Oostema project to FY2010 in the TIP, but advance constructing the project in FY2009. However, the remaining balance above \$300,000 would be an 80/20 match. Itani clarified that the Committee will need to decide if the Oostema project will be funded through the means he suggested, or if it would be funded through the stimulus package, in which case all of the project estimates would need to be reduced in order to make room for it. Warren stated his preference to keep the project on the list for \$980,000 and then readjust percentages to fit the project in. Discussion ensued. Bush suggested leaving the project list as it currently stands, delegating \$300,000 of stimulus funding to the project but changing the project cost to \$980,000 to reflect the new estimate. If additional funding ends up being available, then it could be put toward the Oostema project. If the funding is less than expected, then the Committee will need to make another adjustment anyway.

Varga entertained a motion to amend the proposed Economic Stimulus project list.

MOTION by Bush, SUPPORT by Holtrop, to amend the proposed Economic Stimulus project list to include MDOT's cost changes and the bridge project on US131 at Post Road; the ITP stimulus project cost correction; the cost correction to the airport project to accurately reflect its cost of \$980,000, while delegating

\$300,000 in stimulus funds toward the project; and adding the City of Rockford's Main Street project to the illustrative list.

McBurrows emphasized the importance of Michigan moving as fast as possible so that the state can receive money from other states that are unable to spend the stimulus money quickly enough. Varga clarified that if additional funds are available above the anticipated \$13.1 million, those funds would go to the airport project. Any unfunded part of the total cost of the project would come out of advance construction from a future TIP. Warren added that this motion assumes that if additional funding is not available, the Economic Stimulus List would need to go back to the TPSG Committee to determine what to do with the airport project. Discussion ensued.

Varga returned the motion to the floor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Varga stated that the Committee had neglected to make a motion to amend the UPWP when amending the TIP for the Rapid's projects under Item IV.

Varga entertained a motion to amend the UPWP to reflect the changes made to the FY2009 and FY2010 TIP due to the The Rapid's project requests.

MOTION by Schweitzer, SUPPORT by Pasquale, to amend the UPWP to reflect the changes made to the FY2009 and FY2010 TIP due to the project requests from The Rapid. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Itani stated that this item had already been covered. However, he announced that the Governor was going to come to the MPO and talk to the MPO members about their projects. The meeting was scheduled to take place at the Kent County Road Commission on Friday, February 20 from 10:15 am to 11:15 am.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Varga entertained a motion to adjourn the February 18, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting.

MOTION by Hilton, SUPPORT by DeVries, to adjourn the February 18, 2009 Policy Committee Meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.